

Facilitating European Military Procurement and Cooperation

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Stockholm, Sweden on 26-28 May 2023:

Considering that:

- the Russian Federation has started an atrocious war of aggression against Ukraine, by which it shattered the European peace order;
- in February 2023, Russia announced its withdrawal from the New-START treaty, risking a new and dangerous nuclear arms race;
- the Russian armed forces are being massively enlarged and armed;
- President Putin has repeatedly threatened also other European countries with military actions and is already attacking them in the cyberspace, with disinformation and propaganda.

Concluding that:

- regretfully, the current Russian regime is a military threat to whole Europe, which we must be able to deter and repel;
- Europe's militaries must therefore be appropriately equipped and trained, without wasting time, money, and efficiency due to sectionalism;
- currently, European states are procuring and organising their armed forces mostly separately from and not coordinated with each other, though;
- although a European Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) is already in place, it does not operate effectively due to differing national security strategies and interests.

Reaffirming:

- our commitment to a strong and sovereign EU that is able to take responsibility for its own security, while staying fully committed to NATO;
- our final goal of a unified European Army.

Calls for:

- the creation of a Single Market for Military Procurement, meaning the use of weapon systems that are equal or at least interoperable and interchangeable with each other within Europe based on NATO standards and procedures to safeguard the transatlantic link;

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- military procurement to be therefore closely coordinated or ideally even directly and jointly undertaken by the European Defence Agency, and only to be based on the technical specifications, costs and military needs, not on the country of production within Europe;
- ensure the access to finance for European Defence Industry as well as to energy and necessary space for production sites;
- sharing capabilities at the example of the Strategic Airlift Capability, so that not every army must have all abilities constantly available but can specialize on certain competences;
- the increased establishment of military formations with the participation of several member states, such as the German-Dutch Corps, boosting the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO);
- harmonised standards and enhanced cooperation in training of soldiers and especially officers based on NATO standards, e.g. by extending the Military Erasmus programme, and with the goal of founding a European Military Academy;
- organising more joint military exercises comprising forces from all European states;
- arms export guidelines and permits to be first harmonized on and subsequently transferred to the EU level;
- the European Union to take over more responsibilities in the joint defence against threats in the cyberspace, as well as against disinformation and propaganda, without compromising freedom of speech or cybersecurity;
- generally strengthening the Common Security and Defence Policy and constantly deepening the European integration also in this field, leading to a real European Defence Union.

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